



Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Donald W. DeVore
Secretary

June 18, 2009

Dear Parents,

Yesterday, on June 17, six youth at the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center (BCJJC) became ill with flu-like symptoms. The Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) ensured that the youth had prompt medical attention, and some of the youth were tested by the State Medical Lab to see if they had influenza (flu). Today, the testing confirmed three cases of H1N1 (influenza) at BCJJC. The youth are continuing to be treated by our medical staff at BCJJC and they are not severely ill.

In order to minimize the number of individuals affected, DJS has taken precautionary steps to contain the virus including infection control measures, screening of youth for influenza symptoms, and prompt treatment with antiviral medication if indicated. All of these measures are being carefully coordinated with the advice of our Medical Director and with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

As a part of this effort, we ask for your cooperation as we are limiting visitation at the facility. Updates regarding the status of visitation will be posted at the front entrance of the facility everyday. The symptoms of influenza-like illness include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. To keep the flu from spreading to more people in the facility, we ask that you please do not visit the facility if you have had symptoms of influenza-like illness in the last 7 days.

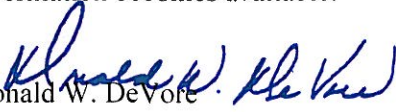
Of course, youth may continue to make telephone calls to you. If your child is ill with influenza, a nurse or physician from DJS will call you directly to let you know and to discuss any questions you may have.

Public health officials want you to protect yourself and your family against H1N1 influenza. Here are some everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please contact the BCJJC facility case manager at 443-263-8998. If you have questions or concerns about your health, please contact your health care provider. You may also contact the Baltimore City Department of Health at 410-396-4436, and get more information about the flu from www.dhmh.state.md.us.

We will promptly notify you of any change in recommendations and will keep you fully informed as additional information becomes available.


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